

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SKATTEFORVALTNINGEN,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN VAN MERKENSTEIJN, RICHARD
MARKOWITZ, BERNINA PENSION PLAN
TRUST, RJM CAPITAL PENSION PLAN
TRUST, 2321 CAPITAL PENSION PLAN,
BOWLINE MANAGEMENT PENSION PLAN,
CALIFORNIA CATALOG COMPANY
PENSION PLAN, DAVIN INVESTMENTS
PENSION PLAN, DELVIAN LLC PENSION
PLAN, DFL INVESTMENTS PENSION PLAN,
LAEGELER ASSET MANAGEMENT PENSION
PLAN, LION ADVISORY INC. PENSION
PLAN, MILL RIVER CAPITAL
MANAGEMENT PENSION PLAN, NEXT
LEVEL PENSION PLAN, RAJAN
INVESTMENTS LLC PENSION PLAN, SPIRIT
ON THE WATER PENSION PLAN, and
TRADEN INVESTMENTS PENSION PLAN,

Defendants.

Case No. 19-cv-10713 (LAK)

**DEFENDANTS JOHN VAN MERKENSTEIJN, RICHARD MARKOWITZ, BERNINA
PENSION PLAN TRUST, AND RJM CAPITAL PENSION PLAN TRUST’S
STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Defendants John Van Merkensteijn, Richard Markowitz, Bernina Pension Plan Trust, and RJM Capital Pension Plan Trust (collectively, “Defendants”) respectfully submit this Statement of Undisputed Material Facts in support of their motion for summary judgment.

1. On April 5, 2018, counsel for Plaintiff Skatteforvaltningen (“SKAT”) sent a signed Tolling Agreement “[r]egarding negotiations of the settlement agreement in regard to repayment

of withheld dividend tax” to counsel for 118 pension plans, as well as the pension plans’ trustees, predecessor plans, successor plans, and partners (the “Covered Parties”). Ex. 1 at 1.

2. On April 13, 2018, Jakob Schilder-Knudsen, a Danish attorney who acted as counsel on behalf of all the Covered Parties, executed the Tolling Agreement (the “April 13, 2018 Tolling Agreement”). Ex. 1 at 2.

3. An “Annex” referenced in the April 13, 2018 Tolling Agreement contains a list of the 118 pension plans covered by the Agreement. Ex. 1 at 1.

4. Defendants Bernina Pension Plan Trust and RJM Capital Pension Plan Trust are pension plans listed in the “Annex” document and are therefore “Covered Parties” under the terms of the Tolling Agreement. Ex. 1 at 1; *see* Stipulation of Defendants John Van Merkensteijn, Richard Markowitz, Bernina Pension Plan Trust, and RJM Capital Pension Plan Trust and Plaintiff Skatteforvaltningen Concerning Tolling Agreements at 2 (“Bernina Pension Plan Trust, RJM Capital Pension Plan Trust ... are Covered Parties pursuant to the terms of these Tolling Agreements.”).

5. Defendant John Van Merkensteijn is a trustee of Defendant Bernina Pension Plan Trust and thus is a “Covered Party” under the terms of the Tolling Agreement. Compl. ¶ 19; *see* Ex. 1 at 1. Defendant Richard Markowitz is a trustee of Defendant RJM Capital Pension Plan Trust and thus is a “Covered Party” under the terms of the Tolling Agreement. Compl. ¶ 20; *see* Ex. 1 at 1.

6. On June 29, 2018, counsel for SKAT sent a signed Tolling Agreement seeking to “extend the duration of said tolling agreement” to counsel for the Covered Parties. Ex. 2 at 1.

7. On July 11, 2018, Mr. Schilder-Knudsen, as counsel on behalf of all the Covered Parties, executed the Tolling Agreement (the “July 11, 2018 Tolling Agreement”). Ex. 2 at 2.

8. On September 12, 2018, counsel for SKAT sent a signed Tolling Agreement seeking to “extend the duration of the ... tolling agreement” to counsel for the Covered Parties. Ex. 3 at 1.

9. On September 28, 2018, Mr. Schilder-Knudsen, as counsel on behalf of all the Covered Parties, executed the Tolling Agreement (the September 28, 2018 Tolling Agreement”). Ex. 3 at 2.

10. On October 22, 2018, counsel for SKAT sent a signed Tolling Agreement seeking to “extend the duration of the ... tolling agreement” to counsel for the Covered Parties. Ex. 4 at 1.

11. On October 30, 2018, Mr. Schilder-Knudsen, as counsel on behalf of all the Covered Parties, executed the Tolling Agreement (the “October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement”). Ex. 4 at 2.

12. The language of the April 13, 2018, July 11, 2018, September 28, 2018, and October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreements is substantively identical, save for the progressive extension of the Agreement’s Expiration Date. *See* Ex. 1 at 2, Ex. 2 at 1-2, Ex. 3 at 1-2, Ex. 4 at 1-2.

13. The October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement provided that, “[i]nsofar as SKAT is contemplating initiating litigation in connection with a scheme to obtain dividend tax refunds, SKAT and the Covered Parties find it mutually desirable” to agree to the following:

SKAT and the Covered Parties have agreed as of January 1, 2018 (the “Effective Date”) that any statutes of limitations, statutes of repose or other time-related claim or defense that would expire or become applicable during that period of time from the Effective Date through the earlier of August 1, 2018, or thirty days after any Party gives written notice to any other Party of its wish to terminate this Agreement with respect to that Party and such notice is received, pertaining to any claim or defense relating in any way to SKAT’s potential claims (the “Claims”), shall be and are tolled and waived and that any such statutes or time-related claims or defenses that would have expired or become applicable during such period shall

expire or become applicable only at the conclusion of sixty (60) days from the expiration of this agreement in accordance with its terms.

Ex. 4 at 1.

14. The October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement continued:

The Expiration Date of this agreement shall be the earlier of (A) August 1, 2018, (B) the filing of any legal proceeding against any Covered Party, but only with respect to the Covered Party or Parties named as a defendant in such proceeding, or (C) thirty days after any Party gives written notice to any other Party of its wish to terminate this Agreement with respect to that Party, and such notice is received, unless renewed by a written instrument signed by authorized representatives of SKAT and the Covered Parties prior to that date and time. On the Expiration Date, a party to this agreement shall have sixty (60) days from the Expiration Date to file any lawsuit relating to the Claims.

Ex. 4 at 2.

15. The October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement provided that it would be “construed in accordance with the laws of New York.” Ex. 4 at 2.

16. The Expiration Date for the October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement was December 31, 2018. Ex. 4 at 2.

17. SKAT and Defendants did not enter into a subsequent Tolling Agreement after the October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement.

18. The October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement expired on December 31, 2018. Ex. 4 at 2.

19. The October 30, 2018 Tolling Agreement provided that, “[o]n the Expiration Date, a party to this agreement shall have sixty (60) days from the Expiration Date to file any lawsuit relating to the Claims.” Ex. 4 at 2.

20. The deadline for SKAT to file any lawsuit against Defendants related to “a scheme to obtain dividend tax refunds” was March 1, 2019.

21. Between December 31, 2018 and March 1, 2019, SKAT filed twenty-one complaints against Covered Parties related to a purported tax scheme to obtain dividend tax refunds, including cases against Defendants. *See Skatteforvaltningen v. PAB Facilities Global LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01808, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Roadcraft Technologies LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01812, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Fairlie Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01791, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Albedo Mgmt. LLC Roth 401K Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01785, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Bareroot Capital Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01783, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. First Ascent Worldwide LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01792, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Loggerhead Services LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01806, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Trailing Edge Prods. LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01815, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 26, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Eclouge Industry LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01870, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Avanix Mgmt. LLC Roth 401K Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01867, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Cavus Systems LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01869, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Hadron Industries LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01868, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Cedar Hill Capital Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01922, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Green Scale Mgmt. LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01926, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Keystone Technologies LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01929, Compl. (S.D.N.Y.

Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Batavia Capital Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01895, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Remece Investments LLC Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01911, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. RJM Capital Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01898, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Routt Capital Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01896, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Xiphias LLC Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01924, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019); *Skatteforvaltningen v. Michelle Investments Pension Plan et al.*, Case No. 19-cv-01906, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019).

22. On November 19, 2019, SKAT filed this action. *See* Compl. at 1-2.

23. The November 19, 2019 complaint alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Compl. ¶ 2.

24. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Avanix Mgmt. LLC Roth 401K Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01867, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019) ¶ 2.

25. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Hadron Industries LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01868, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019) ¶ 2.

26. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Cavus Systems LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01869, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 27, 2019) ¶ 2.

27. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Eclouge Industry LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01870, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

28. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Batavia Capital Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01895, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

29. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Routt Capital Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01896, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

30. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. RJM Capital Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendants Richard Markowitz and RJM Capital Pension Plan as defendants, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over

12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01898, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

31. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Michelle Investments Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendants Richard Markowitz and John van Merkensteijn as defendants, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01906, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

32. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Remece Investments LLC Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendants Richard Markowitz and John van Merkensteijn as defendants, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01911, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

33. The complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Xiphias LLC Pension Plan et al.*, which names Defendants Richard Markowitz and John van Merkensteijn as defendants, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme to deceive SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01924, Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 28, 2019) ¶ 2.

34. In April 2020, SKAT filed amended complaints in several of the cases it had originally filed in February 2019.

35. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Bareroot Capital Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1

billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01783, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

36. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Albedo Mgmt. LLC Roth 401K Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01785, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

37. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Fairlie Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01791, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 21, 2020) ¶ 2.

38. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. First Ascent Worldwide LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner (‘DKK’), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax.” Case No. 19-cv-01792, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

39. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Loggerhead Services LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that “[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over

12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01806, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020).

40. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. PAB Facilities Global LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01808, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 21, 2020) ¶ 2.

41. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Roadcraft Technologies LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01812, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 21, 2020) ¶ 2.

42. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Trailing Edge Prods. LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which names Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01815, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 21, 2020) ¶ 2.

43. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Cedar Hill Capital Investments LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which includes Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT

into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01922, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

44. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Green Scale Mgmt. LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which includes Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01926, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

45. The amended complaint filed in *Skatteforvaltningen v. Keystone Technologies LLC Roth 401(K) Plan et al.*, which includes Defendant Richard Markowitz as a defendant, alleges that "[t]his case stems from a fraudulent tax refund scheme that deceived SKAT into paying out over 12.7 billion Danish Kroner ('DKK'), the equivalent of approximately \$2.1 billion (US), of allegedly withheld dividend tax." Case No. 19-cv-01929, Am. Compl. (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 20, 2020) ¶ 2.

Dated: May 10, 2024
New York, New York

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 10, 2024 the foregoing document was served electronically to all parties of record by the CM/ECF system.

/s/ Alan E. Schoenfeld
Alan E. Schoenfeld

May 10, 2024